THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government of India is committed to ensuring access to quality health care on affordable basis to all citizens of the country. Towards this goal, the Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) since April 2005. The NRHM seeks to undertake wide ranging reforms in public health system to ensure access to quality health services for poor and needy patients especially in the far flung rural areas. The NRHM envisages establishment of a fully functional, decentralized health delivery system with sharp focus on intra and inter-sector convergence for optimal utilization of resources. The NRHM is being implemented from of 2005 to 2012.

NRHM provides overarching umbrella to existing National programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, National Disease Control Programmes and Integrated disease Surveillance. Further, it addresses the issue of health in a sector-wide manner addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health.

The Government also provides direct financial assistance to patients who are living below poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases. Under the Rastriya Arogya Nidhi, this assistance helps the patients receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals/ institutions or other Government hospitals.

Availability of Cochlear implant surgery in Government hospitals

777. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochlear implant surgery for the hearing impaired is available in Central Government sponsored hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of such hospitals; and

(c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to introduce the surgery in Government hospitals to enable the needy poor to have access to it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) As far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, the cochlear implant surgery is available in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

The Cochiear Implant Surgery is also available at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

Non-availability of medicines

778. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many primary and sub-primary health centres medicines are not available all the time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action Government is taking to ensure the availability of all medicines required in these centres; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The provision of medicines in Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres is a subject matter of State Government. Further records of day-to-day activities such as availability of medicines etc. is not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare releases funds for augmentation and upgradation of health infrastructure which includes provision for medicines at Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres also. The State Governments reflect their demand for funds in their annual Programme Implementation Plan under NRHM. Funds are released to them as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC).

Adulteration of essential food items

779. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of day-by-day reported increase of adulteration in drugs, food commodities, edible oil, ghee, milk, etc. throughout the country;

(b) if so, what steps the Union Government have taken so far for strict enforcement of "the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954" and rules made there under as local food Inspectors simply take samples of sold food commodities but do not check adulterated food items; and

(c) if so, what stringent measures Government proposes to take against such defaulters in this regard and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that the Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.T.s have not reported increase of adulteration in food commodities. Samples of various food are taken regularly by the States/U.T.s Governments and action is taken from time to time in case of individual complaints of adulterated foods. The Food Health Authorities of States/U.T.s advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by drawing more and more food samples of all commodities from all sources *viz.* manufacturer, wholesalers and retailers and to take penal action against the offenders under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

So for adulteration in drugs is concerned. The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent manufacture and sale of adulterated drugs in the country: